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Corner**

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**On the  
Corner**

## Bryan Daily Eagle AND PILOT.

(Published every day except Sunday.)  
By THE EAGLE PRINTING CO.

J. M. Carnes.....Editor  
M. E. Wallace.....Manager  
A. J. Buchanan..Adv. and Circulation

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1910.

### THE UNSOLD SCHOOL LANDS.

The comments of the Texas press on the proposition to sell the school lands show how little most of the editors know about the country where most of these lands lie—the Trans-Pecos region. For instance, one paper says: "Very few single sections west of the Pecos are devoid of good sized

valleys." The fact is, not over 10 per cent of the entire surface is tillable. There are hundreds of sections on which it would be impossible to find soil enough to make a vegetable garden for an average family. It is true that in almost all cases where the land can be plowed it is surpassingly fertile, but practically all such lands have been sold. Very few sections now belonging to the state are worth anything for agricultural purposes.

Here is another statement: "It is highly probable that most any eight sections of land in that great area between the Pecos and the Rio Grande has water sufficiently close to the surface for family use." Anybody familiar with that country can point out bodies of eight hundred sections or more where thousands of dollars have been spent in the effort to develop water and not even enough for family use has been found at a less depth than a thousand feet. This is true generally wherever the subjacent rocks are limestone, which is the case over most of the Trans-Pecos country.

Among the basaltic mountains water can generally be found in the canyons at a moderate depth.

Another quotation: "It may be asserted that there is not a section of the unsold school lands in that country which is not worth more than a dollar an acre for the chance there is that it contains valuable mineral deposits." The editor who wrote this sentence prefaced the article from which it is an extract with these words: "Speaking from familiarity with the lands in the Trans-Pecos country and from a close study of the conditions prevailing there," etc.; yet he doesn't know that when the lands are sold for a low price the state reserves the mineral right, and in no case parts with it for less than \$10 an acre. The editor of The Eagle owns several thousand acres in Brewster county, which is for sale at \$1.50 per acre, including the mineral right, while the state demands \$25 per acre for adjoining lands, including the mineral right, or \$1.50 per acre without the mineral right.

These facts are not stated for the purpose of retarding development in that country, for the writer has every reason to desire the opposite. Notwithstanding the facts stated, it is a country of great possibilities and offers many opportunities to those who know how to take advantage of them. But it is no place for a farmer who expects to pursue the methods that are common in other parts of Texas. The names of dozens who have spent their little all trying to do this could be given, and to warp others against erroneous statements like those quoted and referred to is the object of this article.

As to the question of selling the remaining school lands to non-settlers, there is a good deal to be said on both sides. The Eagle has not taken a position because there are some matters connected with it that the editor does not understand sufficiently well to discuss intelligently, although he spent ten years in that country.

### A PUBLIC DUTY.

As we have before stated, next Tuesday is the day when we are to elect state and county officers, and it is the duty of every qualified voter to go to the polls and vote. But this is not all that should be done. It is a duty that every man owes to the state to vote for the amendment to the constitution authorizing the support and maintenance of a home for the wives and widows of Confederate soldiers and sailors. The state can now, and does, provide a home for the old soldiers and sailors themselves, but there is no provision made for the taking care of the indigent and disabled women of the Confederacy. The additional expense of this home can never exceed \$50,000. This is about 10 cents per head for each male person who has reached the age of twenty-one years in the state. To the average taxpayer it will be less than a nickel, and in a majority of cases it will be less than a postage stamp. But if it were more it should be adopted. Most of these dear old women suffered more than tongue can tell, and their efforts were the strongest support of the fight for local self-government made by the heroes of fifty years ago.—Marlin Democrat.



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